AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-36.   (Cancelled)

37.   (Currently Amended) A method for translating instant messages exchanged between a first user using a first device and a second user using a second device over a communication network, the first user having a first translation preference and the second user having a second translation preference, the method comprising:

during initiation of~~establishing~~ an instant messaging session between the first device and the second device~~;~~,

sending by the first device to the second device ~~during the established session~~ an indication of the first translation preference; and

receiving by the first device from the second device ~~during the established session~~ an indication of the second translation preference, wherein the second translation preference is different from the first translation preference; and

during the initiated session,

receiving by the first device from the first user a first message intended for the second device, the first message composed according to the first translation preference;

translating the received first message from the first translation preference to the second translation preference; and

transmitting the translated message in the second translation preference to the second device as an instant message during the established session via the communication network.

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 further comprising, storing by the first device the received indication of the second translation preference.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the translation preference is specified as a destination language.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the translation preference is specified as a locality.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the translation preference is specified as a geographic setting.

42.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 37.

43-47. (Cancelled)

48.   (Currently Amended) A computing system of a first device for translating instant messages sent from a first user using the first device to a second user using a second device over a communication network, the first user having a first translation preference and the second user having a second translation preference, comprising:

a component that establishes an instant messaging session between the first device and the second device;

~~a component that during the established instant messaging session transmits to the second device an indication of the first translation preference;~~

a component that, during the ~~established~~ establishment of the instant messaging session, receives from the second device an indication of the second translation preference, wherein the second translation preference is different from the first translation preference;

a component that receives from the first user a first message intended for the second user, the first message composed according to the first translation preference, and that translates the ~~received~~ first message from the first

translation preference to the second translation preference received during the ~~established~~ establishment of the instant messaging session; ~~and~~

a component that transmits during the established instant messaging session the translated message in the second translation preference to the second device via the communication network;

a component that receives from the second user a second message intended for the first user, the second message composed according to the second translation preference, and that translates the second message from the second translation preference to the first translation preference; and

a component that provides to the first user the second message translated to the first translation preference.

49.   (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the component that receives the indication of the second translation preference stores the received indication of the second translation preference.

50.   (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the translation preference is specified as a destination language.

51.   (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the translation preference is specified as a locality.

52.   (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the translation preference is specified as a geographic setting.

53.   (New) A method in a computer system for providing real-time communication over a network between first and second users, the method comprising:

receiving first profile information from a first device of the first user, the profile information including first geographic information of the first user;

receiving second profile information from a second device of the second user, the profile information including second geographic information of the second user;

receiving from the first user a first message intended for the second user, translating the first message based on the first geographic information and the second geographic information, and providing the translated first message to the second user; and

receiving from the second user a second message intended for the first user, translating the second message based on the first geographic information and the second geographic information, and providing the translated second message to the first user.

54.   (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the first geographic information includes a locality of the first user.

55.   (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the computer system is the first device of the first user.

56.   (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the computer system is a server.

57.   (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the receiving of the first profile information and the receiving of the second message are performed at the second device and the receiving of the second profile information and the receiving of the first message are performed at the first device.

58.   (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the receiving of the first profile information and the second profile information occurs during initiation of a session for exchanging messages.